

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-10 SSO-00 ISO-00 /017 R

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DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:HHSTACKHOUSE:DF

APPROVED BY NEA/IAI - HHSTACKHOUSE

S/S- MR. GAMMON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 246101

TOSEC 261

FOL TEL SENT ACTION USINFO WASHDC SECSTATE INFO

ALGIERS AMMAN BEIRUT CAIRO MOSCOW ROME

TRIPOLI TUNIS USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC TEL AVIV FM JERUSALEM DEC 17 REPEATED FOR YOUR
ACTION

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USIAC

USINFO FOR IOR/M, IPS, IBS, INE

BEIRUT FOR VOA AND RAPA

ROME FOR VOA

FROM USIS-MOSS

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION-MORNING PRESS REVIEW DECEMBER 17

1. DR KISSINGER'S ARRIVAL, HIS EFFORTS TO
REMOVEROADBLOCKS TO GENEVA AND CABINET MEETINGS
TO DISCUSS US CLARIFICATIONS, ARE MEDIA'S MAJOR
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ITEMS. DAVAR (BLOCH) SAYS US USED ITS FULL

WEIGHT TO INFLUENCE ISRAEL TO GO TO GENEVA. AL HAMISHMAR SAYS POLITICAL CIRCLES WERE IMPRESSED BY KISSINGER'S TALKS IN ISRAEL. HAARETZ (GOLAN) SAYS ALL SIGNS INDICATE THAT ISRAEL WILL BE ASKED TO GIVE UP SOME OF ITS DEMANDS ON TROOP DISENGAGEMENT, AUSPICES AND PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION. HAARETZ (MARCUS FROM GENEVA) CITES DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AS SAYING THAT INTENSIVE US-USSR CONTACTS WERE HELD TO SOFTEN UNSC RESOLUTION (AUSPICES) TO ENABLE ISRAELI PARTICIPATION DESPITE CHANGE IN AUSPICES. JERUSALEM POST CITES "RELIABLE WEST BANK SOURCES" CLOSE TO ROYAL COURT IN AMMAN THAT JORDANIAN DELEGATION TO GENEVA WILL INCLUDE THREE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVE. DAVAR QUOTES RADIO BEIRUT AS SAYING THAT SYRIANS HAVE PREPARED LIST OF 127 ISRAELI POWS. WRITING ON STREET MOOD, JERUSALEM POST (HONIG) CLAIMS MOST ISRAELIS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT GENEVA PEACE PROSPECTS.

2. KISSINGER'S TALKS IN JERUSALEM: (A) CAVAR (HISTADRUT) (BLOCH) WRITES: "THE US YESTERDAY USED ITS FULL WEIGHT TO INFLUENCE ISRAEL TO PARTICIPATE AT GENEVA DESPITE THE FORMAL AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS. DR. KISSINGER ACTED YESTERDAY TO INFLUENCE HIS ISRAELI CONVERSANTS THAT THE UN AUSPICES IS JUST A FORMALITY AND LACKS SERIOUS POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. THE PARCTICAL AUSPICES WILL BE THE US-USSR, JUST AS PROMISED TO ISRAEL, WHEN THE CEASEFIRE WAS ACCEPTED." REPORTING ON CABINET DEBATES ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES, BLOCH NOTES THAT NO DEMAND TO BOYCOTT GENEVA WAS VOICED. (B) DAVAR EDITORIAL COMMENTS: "...THE STATE OF ISRAEL FULLY RECOGNIZES THE FATEFULL SIGNIFICANCE OF US COOPERATION AND IS GRATEFUL FOR THE ENORMOUS AND VITAL AID WHICH THIS FRIENDLY POWER EXTENDED. HOWEVER, TO THE US AS WELL, ISRAEL CANNOT REFRAIN FROM HONESTLY STATING THAT THERE ARE MATTERS BEYOND WHICH ISRAEL CANNOT GO...WITHOUT (ACTUALLY) SETTING UP ITS OWN SUICIDE...SUCH AS THE QUESTION

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OF TROOP DISENGAGEMENT...IF AND WHEN, ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS WILL INVOLVE PRESENCE OF MASSIVE EGYPTIAN MILITARY FORCES..." (C) HAARETZ (INDEPENDENT) (GOLAN) WRITES: "ALL SIGNS INDICATE THAT ISRAEL WILL BE ASKED TO GIVE UP SOME OF ITS DEMANDS ON TROOP DISENGAGEMENT, AUSPICES AND PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION AT CONFERENCE...EGYPT REQUESTED DR. KISSINGER THAT

ISRAEL WITHDRAW FIRST TO THE MITLA AND JIDI
PASSES AND UNDERTAKE TO WITHDRAW THEREAFTER
TO EL ARISH-RAS MUHAMAD, LEAVING AN EGYPTIAN FORCE
OF THREE DIVISIONS EAST OF THE CANAL...HOWEVER,
KISSINGER APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT EGYPT WILL
ACCEPT AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO 30 KILOMETERS
EAST OF THE CANAL..."

(D) HAARETZ (MARCUS FORM GENEVA) WRITES: "US
AND USSR HELD INTENSIVE CONTACTS IN ORDER TO
RESCUE THE CONFERENCE...DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE
CLAIMED THESE CONTACTS WERE HELD IN ORDER TO
SOFTEN THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION TO ENABLE
ISRAELI PARTICIPATION DESPITE THE CHANGE OF
AUSPICES..."

(E) IN A SEPARATE ARTICLE, MARCUS WRITES: " A
SOVIET OBSERVER HERE SAID GENEVA WILL NOT BE
THE GREATEST PERFORMANCE BUT RATHER THE GREATEST
FAILURE ON EARTH..." NOTING IMPLICATION OF
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION (ON AUSPICES) ON
ISRAEL, MARCUS REMARKS: "...THE US DELEGATION
HERE HAS FAITH IN THE 'MIRACLE PERFORMER.
KISSINGER...HOWEVER, EVEN THOUGH (ISRAEL) IS
HOPEFULLY LOOKING TO KISSINGER, ISRAEL SHOULD
BETTER REMEMBER THAT FIRST AND FOREMOST
KISSINGER IS AMERICA'S SECRETARY OF STATE AND
ISRAELI INTERESTS ARE NOT AMONG HIS FIRST PRIORITIES...
ISRAEL SHOULD NOT PLAY ANY PART IN KISSINGER'S
STAGING...UNDER THE PREVAILING CONDITIONS, IF
ISRAEL WILL NOT STAND FAST ON ITS POSITION,...
IT WILL BE HEADING TO ITS DEATH..."

3. PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION: JERUSALEM POST
REPORTS: "JORDAN'S DELEGATION TO GENEVA...WILL BE
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HEADED BY KING HUSSEIN'S ADVISER RIFAL...
ACCORDING TO RELIABLE WEST BANK SOURCES IN CLOSE
TOUCH WITH THE ROYAL COURT IN AMMAN... THE DELEGATION
WILL REPORTEDLY ALSO INCLUDE AT LEAST THREE
PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVES..."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, THE PRESS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, TOSEC 261
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE246101
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HHSTACKHOUSE:DF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731220/aaaaaome.tel
Line Count: 163
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Dec-2001 by williad>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION-MORNING PRESS REVIEW DECEMBER 17
TAGS: OVIP, SCUL, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: LISBON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005